

Philadelphia, PA--Honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) kicked off Martin Luther King Day by speaking to over 1,500 volunteers at Temple University. The University played host to the signature site project of the Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service. — The Congressman gave opening remarks in a ceremony that also included an address by Ann Weaver Hart, Temple University's President and Todd Bernstein, founder of the Greater Philadelphia Day of Service. Congressman Sestak thanked the volunteers for taking time out of their day to provide services for the community. Congressman Sestak joined Dr. Weaver Hart in recognizing that community service takes place not just on the Martin Luther King holiday, but on a daily basis.

"Today, we pay tribute to the legacy of Dr. King, whose leadership and determination has served as a lasting example of how to effect change in our communities," said Congressman Sestak. "His struggle for Civil Rights and belief in non-violent protest has cultivated a more just and free America. This holiday serves as a reminder of the impact of his work, and I am proud to speak here today to honor Dr. King, as well as recognize the value of the service that these volunteers are carrying out today. Dedicated individuals such as Todd Bernstein are integral to our national fabric."

The signature site of the Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service is the construction of the YouthBuild Philadelphia, HOPE worldwide, and One Day at a Time environmentally-friendly, green playground, including picnic tables and park benches to be installed at the Winchester Recreation.

This morning, Congressman Sestak participated in a send-off ceremony for hundreds of volunteers at Villanova University to participate in the Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service. He next headed to Penn Wood High School, where he spoke at a school program honoring the work of Dr. King and the historical significance of President-Elect Barack Obama. Following the program was a school wide initiative to clean up the school.

Subsequently, Congressman Sestak participated in the Weed and Seed of Upper Darby Community Service Event at the Watkins Senior Center. He addressed volunteers from the Department of Justice organization as they cleaned the Watkins Senior Center.

Congressman Sestak then participated in the Don Guanella School Pool Cleaning with Valley Forge Military Academy veterans and Don Guanella students.

The Congressman then headed to the First African Baptist Church in Sharon Hill to join with the Neighbor to Neighbor volunteer group to help paint the interior of the church and celebrate Dr. King's legacy with the congregation.

Congressman Sestak's next stop was to deliver remarks at the Crozer Chester Medical Center (CCMC) regarding Martin Luther King Day and the history of the CCMC with Dr. King. He concluded the day by joining volunteers to paint the Havertown Senior Center and speaking at the Norristown Municipal Martin Luther King, Jr. Event.

Other events Congressman Sestak participated in for Martin Luther King Day Weekend included:

SATURDAY, JAN 17th

- Elwyn Institute, Delaware County: : Kick off MLK Day Activities with residents and staff

SUNDAY, JAN 18th

- The African American Museum of Philadelphia: Meet with members of the Museum for "Music of the Civil Rights Movement" Day
- First United Methodist Church, Delaware County: Speak at the Media Fellowship House MLK Event
- Bryn Mawr College Montgomery County: Speak with students and others from the community at the Main Line Gospel Choir Event
- United Methodist Church, Delaware County: Gather with forty churches from the area for an MLK Day Ceremony
- Advent Lutheran Church, Chester County: Talk with Girl Scouts about the importance of service

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.